

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06 FEAE-00

DODE-00 ERDA-05 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04

/094 W

-----071704Z 102754 /43

P R 071443Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7293

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

JOHANNESBURG FOR SWEETWOOD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, WA

SUBJECT: ROSSING URANIUM MINE

REF: STATE 77039, PRETORIA 1606

1. STATEMENT IN PRETORIA 1606 CONCERNING DELAYS AT ROSSING WAS AS EXPRESSED BY G.A. MACMILLAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF RIO TINTO S.A. UPON FURTHER INQUIRY, RIO TINTO CLARIFIED STATEMENT BY SAYING BECAUSE OF MECHANICAL AND DESIGN FAULTS, WOULD TAKE 18 MONTHS TO GET UP TO RATED CAPACITY. SAID URANIUM OXIDE IS BEING PRODUCED BUT NOT IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY. WOULD NOT ESTIMATE PRESENT OUTPUT WHICH SAID WAS FLUCTUATING FROM WEEK TO WEEK. THUS SITUATION APPEARS TO BE AS REPORTED IN PRETORIA'S A-178, OCTOBER 22, 1976.

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2. RIO TINTO REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER URANIUM IS BEING EXPORTED TO UK OR TO IDENTIFY ITS CUSTOMERS. HOWEVER, IT IS KNOWN THAT TWO CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN ENTERED INTO WITH UK ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY TO SUPPLY 7,500 TONS OF YELLOW CAKE OVER 1976-81. EXCESS IS TO BE MARKETING IN EUROPE AND JAPAN. MACMILLAN SAID "NOT ONE POUND" WILL GO TO SOUTH AFRICA.

4. RIO TINTO WOULD NOT DIVULGE HOW URANIUM IS BEING SHIPPED, REFERRING TO THREATS BY SEAN MACBRIDE TO IMPOUND PRODUCT. SEEMS LOGICAL, HOWEVER, THAT WALVIS BAY WOULD BE USED, GIVEN PROXIMITY OF MINE AND SMALL TONNAGE.

4. RIO TINTO WOULD NOT APPROVE VISIT OF EMBASSY OFFICER TO MINE. SINCE PERMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD APPARENTLY ALSO NEEDED, WE DID NOT PUSH ISSUE. ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY SHOULD ARISE LATER WHEN APPLICATION TO SAG ENTITY NOT REQUIRED. EMBASSY OFFICER MET MINE MANAGER, WHO IS AMERICAN, AT WINDHOEK. HE BLAMED PRODUCTION DELAYS CHIEFLY ON FAILURE OF EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY GERMAN AND US, TO LIVE UP TO SPECIFICATIONS.

5. FOREGOING PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH MINERALS OFFICER, JOHANNESBURG.BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, URANIUM, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR01731
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770121-0974
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770477/aaaacpjl.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 77039, 77 PRETORIA 1606
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2867495
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROSSING URANIUM MINE
TAGS: ECON, WA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/24bec9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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22 May 2009
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